

CONSTITUTION  
OF  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AUBURN

ARTICLE I

***NAME, OFFICES, PURPOSE AND FISCAL YEAR***

***SECTION 1 - NAME***

The name of this church shall be FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AUBURN.

***SECTION 2 - OFFICES***

The principal office of this church is located in Placer County, with a mailing address of 139 E. Placer Street, Auburn, California, 95603.

***SECTION 3 - PURPOSE***

- a. To provide an opportunity for worship, prayer, fellowship, service and instruction for Christian believers. (Acts 2:42)
- b. To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ at home and abroad. (Matthew 28:19, 20)

***SECTION 4 - FISCAL YEAR***

The fiscal year of this church shall begin on July 1, and end on June 30.

- c. ***Duties:*** The Nominating Committee shall select from among those who are Members of this church who are qualified and willing to serve, nominees for the positions of Elder, Deacon, Deaconess, Treasurer and his congregational committee members, Financial Secretary, and Nominating Committee congregational members. Where one of these officers has to vacate his/her office prior to the end of his/her term for whatever reason, the Nominating Committee may appoint a replacement, with the approval of the Board of Elders, who shall continue to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Members, at which time the Members of the church shall elect a replacement from among those nominated by the Nominating Committee to complete the applicable term of office.
- d. All meetings of this Committee shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Article V, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

***SECTION 3 - PULPIT COMMITTEE***

- a. ***Membership:*** In the event that the Senior Pastor resigns or is dismissed, a Pulpit Committee shall be formed and shall be composed of five members, consisting of the following: One representative from each of the Boards of Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses; and two other Members of this church, nominated and elected by the Members at a duly called meeting. The Pulpit Committee shall be chaired by the representative from the Board of Elders.

## ARTICLE II

### *DOCTRINE*

#### ***SECTION 1 - OF THE SCRIPTURES***

We believe that all Scripture (the 66 book canon) is given by inspiration of God, by which we mean that God superintended human authors so that using their individual human personalities they composed and recorded without error His message to man in the words of the original autographs. (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; John 10:35; Matthew 5:17)

#### ***SECTION 2 - OF GOD***

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who are one God deserving precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; John 10:30; II Corinthians 13:14)

#### ***SECTION 3 - OF CHRIST***

We believe that the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Godhead, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death, rose bodily from the grave and ascended into heaven, thus to continue as both undiminished deity and perfect humanity united in one person forever. (John 1:1, 14, 18; Hebrews 1:2-9; I John 5:20; I Timothy 2:5)

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Board of Elders. The Elder responsible for Finance will act as the Chairman of this committee.

- b. **Term of Office:** The members of the Budget Committee shall serve a term of one year.
- c. **Duties:** The Budget Committee shall prepare a budget which, upon the recommendation of the Board of Elders, shall be presented to the Members for their approval at the Annual Business Meeting.
- d. All meetings of this Committee shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Article V, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

#### ***SECTION 2 - NOMINATION COMMITTEE***

- a. **Membership:** The Nominating Committee shall be composed of 5-7 members, consisting of the Senior Pastor; one representative each from the Boards of Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses, whose terms are not expiring, and three other Members of this church from the congregation nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. A representative from the Board of Elders shall serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee.
- b. **Term of Office:** The members of the Nominating Committee shall serve a term of one year.

**SECTION 4 - FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

- a. **Election:** The Financial Secretary of this church shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation from among the congregation.
- b. **Term of Office:** The Financial Secretary shall serve a term of one year. The Financial Secretary shall be dismissed prior to the expiration of the term of office only upon a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders.
- c. **Duties:** The Financial Secretary of the church shall be responsible to count all moneys received by this church, to deposit same in a local bank, and to furnish a record of such deposits to the Treasurer. The Financial Secretary shall maintain confidential records of the money received from individual contributors.

**ARTICLE IX**

**COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1 - BUDGET COMMITTEE**

- a. **Membership:** The Budget Committee shall be composed of the Senior Pastor, the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, the Elder responsible for Finance, and one representative from the congregation nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by the congregation at the Annual Business Meeting. The exact number of members shall be determined by the

**SECTION 4 - OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, a divine, eternal Person, having intellect, emotions, and will of His own. (Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:14; John 15:26; 16:13-14; I Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 2:11)

We believe the present ministry of the Holy Spirit is restraining sin in the world, convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He also, in the present age, regenerates believers in Christ, baptizes them into the church, the body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them into the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts upon each one. (John 15:26, 27; 16:7-15; John 3:8; I Corinthians 12:13; John 14:16; Ephesians 4:30; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19)

**SECTION 5 - OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, apart from any evolutionary process. In Adam all mankind fell into sin with the result that all men are sinners, hopelessly sinful in themselves, apart from the grace of God. (Genesis 1:12; 9:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1)

**SECTION 6 - OF SALVATION**

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God brought to men by His grace and received by faith alone in Christ, who died for our sins and rose again, apart from any sacraments, good works or human merit. (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; 13:38, 39; 16:31; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 4:4, 5; 5:1; Ephesians 2:8,9)

**SECTION 7 - OF SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that every believer is promised positional, progressive, and ultimate eternal sanctification. (John 17:14-17; I Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26; I Thessalonians 4:3,4; Hebrews 10:10,14; I John 3:2)

**SECTION 8 - OF ASSURANCE**

We believe that all who are born of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ can have assurance of salvation and are eternally secure in Christ. (John 6:37; 10:27-29; 17:12; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 4:30; II Timothy 1:12; I John 5:13)

**SECTION 9 - OF THE CHURCH**

We believe the church is composed of all believers of all races, colors, and nations; is the body and bride of Christ; is formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and exists in two aspects, universal and local. The universal church is an elect company of believers, baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body; its mission is to bear witness of its Head, Jesus Christ, preaching the gospel among all nations; it will be caught up to meet the Lord, after which He will return to set up His Kingdom. The local church is a group of believers voluntarily joined together to worship God with praise and thanksgiving, and to glorify Jesus Christ through an aggressive effort to disciple others by the preaching of the gospel, and the exercise of spiritual gifts. We

**SECTION 3 - TREASURER**

- a. The Treasurer shall serve as the corporate chief financial officer of this church.
- b. **Election:** The Treasurer shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation from among the congregation.
- c. **Term of Office:** The Treasurer shall serve a term of one year. The Treasurer shall be dismissed prior to the expiration of his term of office only upon a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders.
- d. **Duties:** The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds contributed to this church for any purpose, except the beneficence fund which the Elder Board shall oversee, and shall make at least quarterly reports to the Board of Elders, and at least annual reports to the Members of this church. He/she shall make further and more frequent reports to the Board of Elders upon the request of the Board of Elders. The Treasurer shall disburse moneys in accordance with the annual budget. The Treasurer may make other non-budgetary expenditures at the direction of the Board of Elders, except where such an expenditure exceeds \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) whereupon he must obtain the approval of both the Board of Elders and the Members.

pastoral staff to assist him in his duties. However, the members of the pastoral staff shall not be considered corporate Elders or Officers of this church, unless so elected in accordance with these By-Laws.

## ***SECTION 2 - CLERK***

- a. The Clerk shall serve as the secretary of this church.
- b. ***Election:*** The Clerk shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the congregation from among the congregation.
- c. ***Term of Office:*** The Clerk shall serve a term of one year. The Clerk shall be dismissed prior to the expiration of the term of office only upon a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders.
- d. ***Duties:*** The Clerk shall make and keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Members, and maintain the records of the proceedings of all other Boards and Committees of this church. He/she shall maintain a record of all baptisms and the names and addresses of the Members. He/she shall preserve all other papers, letters, and Documents given to him by the various Boards and Committees of this church. Upon the expiration of his/her term, he/she shall deliver all of the above records to his/her successor.

believe that the Spiritual practices of baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and the bread and the cup are for all believers in Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:24-30; Acts 13:1; I Corinthians 4:13, 27; Matthew 28:19, 20; Luke 22:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:46; I Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17)

## ***SECTION 10 - OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE***

We believe that Christians are called to a holy life of service And testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, which service includes the propagation of the Gospel message to the whole world. There is promised reward in heaven for faithfulness in such service. (I Peter 1:15, 16; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 3:12-17; John 14:1-3)

## ***SECTION 11 - OF THE ANGELS***

We believe that angels were originally created holy creatures, but, now exist as unfallen and fallen, including Satan. (Colossians 1:16; Job 38:6-7; Psalm 148:2-4; Jude 6; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:9; Ephesians 6:11, 12; I Timothy 2:6; 5:21)

## ***SECTION 12 - OF THE SECOND COMING***

We believe in the imminent return of the Lord for His Church; the tribulation; the second coming of Christ to the earth after the tribulation; the establishment of the reign of Christ on earth for one thousand years; the eternal state of punishment for the

unsaved and the eternal state of blessing for the saved.  
(Titus 2:13; I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:4-10;  
John 14:1-3; Revelation 3:10; Matthew 24:21, 29-30;  
25:31-46; Revelation 20:1-6; 11:15; Matthew 25:46)

## ARTICLE III

### GOVERNMENT

#### SECTION 1 - SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

This church acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as its head; the Scriptures as its infallible guide in the matter of faith, church order, and discipline; and the Holy Spirit as its teacher. This church maintains that it is not subordinate to any other ecclesiastical body.

#### SECTION 2 - VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION

This church voluntarily associates with the Conservative Baptist Association of America.

#### SECTION 3 - CONGREGATIONAL AUTHORITY

Under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, the government of this church is entrusted to its Members.

#### SECTION 4 - DELEGATION OF MANAGEMENT DUTIES

The duties of managing the activities and affairs of this church and of exercising certain of the corporate powers of this church are delegated by the Members to the Board of Elders, Board of Deacons, Board of Deaconesses and Committees of this church, the nature and extent of which is set forth in these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VIII

### OFFICERS

#### SECTION 1 - SENIOR PASTOR

- a. **Call:** Upon the recommendation of the Pulpit Committee, a four-fifths vote of the Elder Board, the Senior Pastor is called by a four-fifths ballot vote at a duly called meeting of the Members.
- b. **Term of Office:** The Senior Pastor shall continue in office until he resigns or is dismissed. The Senior Pastor shall be dismissed only upon the recommendation of a majority of the Board of Elders, and thereafter, upon the approval of the Members by a majority vote at a duly called meeting.
- c. **Duties:** The Senior Pastor shall devote himself to the study and exposition of the Scriptures, supervise the administration of the ordinances, and exercise pastoral oversight of the Members of this church. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex-officio member of any Board or Committee of this church, including the Board of Elders, except that he may not vote in regard to a recommendation of the Board of Elders for the dismissal and/or benefits of the Senior Pastor. The Senior Pastor shall supervise the pastoral staff and other employees of this church.
- d. **Pastoral Staff:** With the approval of the Board of Elders and the Members, the Senior Pastor may maintain a

- b. The Deaconesses shall collectively be known as the Board of Deaconesses. The number of Deaconesses shall be determined by the Board of Elders.
- c. The qualifications for a Deaconess shall be those set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- d. The Members shall elect the Deaconesses from among the nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee.

#### ***SECTION 2 - TERM OF OFFICE***

A Deaconess shall serve a term of three years, unless a shorter term is otherwise specified upon election for the purpose of creating or maintaining staggered terms.

#### ***SECTION 3 - DUTIES***

- a. The Board of Deaconesses shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman and secretary at its first meeting of each year.
- b. The Board of Deaconesses may assist the Board of Elders, under the direction of the Board of Elders, with the management of the activities and affairs of this church.

#### ***SECTION 4 - MEETINGS***

All meetings of this Board shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Article V, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### ***MEMBERS***

#### ***SECTION 1 - RECEPTION OF MEMBERS***

- a. A person who desires to become a Member of this church must declare and demonstrate that he/she is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior, and that he/she is willing to submit himself/herself to the authority of the church as stated in these By-Laws in matters of spiritual life and discipline.
- b. All persons who desire to become a Member of this church and yet have not received the ordinance of baptism are required to do so as a prerequisite of membership. Baptism in this church shall be by the mode of immersion.

#### ***SECTION 2 - TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP***

- a. ***By Transfer:*** Members who desire to transfer their membership to another church may be granted, upon written request to the Elder Board, a letter of recommendation from this church.
- b. ***By Dismissal:*** Scripture enjoins upon a church the duty of exercising discipline over its Members. Discipline is enforced as a positive command. The grounds for and method of dismissal shall be consistent with Scripture. (Matthew 18:15-17; Romans 16:17; I Timothy 5:20)

#### ***SECTION 3 - RESTORATION OF MEMBERSHIP***

Persons who have had their membership in this church terminated may have it restored.

The method of restoration shall be consistent with the regulations which govern the reception of Members. (Proverbs 28:13; II Corinthians 2:6-7; Galatians 6:1)

**SECTION 4 - MEETINGS**

- a. **Annual Meeting:** There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Members in order to provide them with the opportunity to exercise their powers. All terms of elective office shall expire and begin at the Annual Meeting of the appropriate fiscal year, except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws.
- b. **Special Meeting:** In addition to the Annual Meeting, Special meetings of the Members may be called by the Board of Elders.
- c. **Agenda:** The agenda for a meeting shall be set by the Board of Elders, although any Member of this church may propose an item of business for the agenda to the Board of Elders, who shall place the item on the agenda if it is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Elders.
- d. **Quorum:** A quorum shall consist of those Members of the church present at the meeting.
- e. **Voting:** Every Member 16 years of age or older shall be considered a Voting Member. A majority vote of the Voting Members present shall be required to render a decision, unless otherwise provided herein. The method of voting shall be chosen by the moderator, or at the request of a majority of the Voting Members.

**SECTION 2 - TERM OF OFFICE**

A Deacon shall serve a term of three years, unless a shorter term is otherwise specified upon election for the purpose of creating or maintaining staggered terms.

**SECTION 3 - DUTIES**

- a. The Board of Deacons shall nominate and elect representatives from their Board to serve on Committees specified by these By-Laws.
- b. The Board of Deacons may assist the Board of Elders, under the direction of the Board of Elders, with the management of the activities and affairs of this church.
- c. The Board of Deacons shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman and secretary at its first meeting of each year.

**SECTION 4 - MEETINGS**

All meetings of this Board shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Article V, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

**ARTICLE VII**

**BOARD OF DEACONESSES**

**SECTION 1 - ELECTION**

- a. The Board of Elders may establish a Board of Deaconesses based upon need.

**SECTION 4 - MEETINGS**

- a. **Quorum:** A majority of the Board Members shall constitute a quorum.
- b. **Voting:** A majority vote of the Board Members present shall be required to render a decision, unless otherwise provided herein.
- c. **Minutes:** Minutes shall be taken at each Board Meeting, subsequently approved and delivered to the Clerk of the church.
- d. Notice of every Board Meeting shall be given in a manner consistent with Article IV, Section 4 (g) of these By-Laws, or by mail forty-eight hours in advance, or by personal delivery or telephone call twenty-four hours in advance.

**ARTICLE VI  
BOARD OF DEACONS**

**SECTION 1 - ELECTION**

- a. The Board of Elders may establish a Board of Deacons based upon need.
- b. The Deacons shall be collectively known as the Board of Deacons. The number shall be determined by the Board of Elders.
- c. The qualifications for a Deacon shall be those set forth in I Timothy 3:8-13.
- d. The Members shall elect the Deacons by ballot vote from among the nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee.

Whenever there is an election where there is a single nominee listed for a particular office, the ballot shall provide for both an affirmation and negative vote.

- f. Minutes shall be taken, approved and delivered by the Clerk of the church or in the case of the absence of the Clerk the moderator shall appoint a substitute.
- g. Notice of a meeting shall be announced from the pulpit, and published in the bulletin or posted at the place of worship on at least the two consecutive Sunday services immediately preceding the time of such meeting.
- h. Except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws, a meeting shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

**SECTION 5 - POWERS**

- a. The Members shall elect the Elders.
- b. The Members shall elect the Deacons.
- c. The Members shall elect the Deaconesses.
- d. The Members shall elect the officers and those committee members specified in these By-Laws.
- e. The Members shall approve the Annual Budget.

- f. The Members shall approve non-budgetary expenditures in excess of \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars) or 10% of the Annual Budget whichever is less.
- g. The Members shall elect representatives to serve on the Nominating Committee and Pulpit Committee.
- h. The Members shall approve Pastoral Staff members.

## ARTICLE V

### ***BOARD OF ELDERS***

#### ***SECTION 1 - ELECTION***

- a. The Elders shall be collectively known as the Board of Elders. The number of Elders shall be no less than five and no more than thirty-five, with the exact number to be fixed by the Board of Elders.
- b. The qualifications for an Elder shall be those set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
- c. The Members shall elect the Elders by ballot vote from among the nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee.

#### ***SECTION 2 - TERM OF OFFICE***

An Elder shall serve a term of three years, unless a shorter term is otherwise specified upon election for the purpose of creating or maintaining staggered terms.

### ***SECTION 3 - DUTIES***

- a. The Board of Elders shall serve as the corporate directors of this church and shall appoint all Corporate officers.
- b. The Board of Elders shall elect its own chairman, vice-chairman and secretary at the first meeting of each year.
- c. The Board of Elders shall manage the affairs and activities of this church including the church beneficence fund.
- d. The Board of Elders shall, together with the Senior Pastor, exercise the spiritual oversight of the Members.
- e. The Board of Elders shall assist the Senior Pastor in conducting the observance of communion.
- f. The Board of Elders shall approve applications for membership.
- g. The Board of Elders shall consider applications for commissioning, licensing and ordination to the ministry.
- h. The Chairman of the Board of Elders, or an Elder designated by him, shall act as moderator over the meetings of the Members.
- i. The Board of Elders shall appoint representatives to serve on the Budget Committee, Nominating Committee and Pulpit Committee.

**SECTION 2 - APPROVAL**

If the Board of Elders decides that an applicant may be worthy of further consideration for commissioning, licensing or ordination by this church to the Gospel Ministry, the Board of Elders may ask the Senior Pastor to call a council which shall thoroughly examine the candidate's call to the ministry, education, Christian experience, and doctrinal belief. Upon the recommendation of the council and the approval of the Board of Elders, the candidate shall be publicly commissioned, licensed or ordained.

**ARTICLE XI**

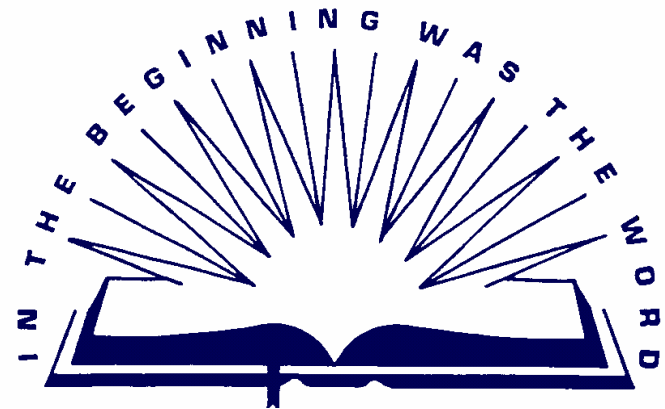
**AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws, either in part or in whole, may be repealed, amended, or otherwise modified by a three-fourths ballot vote at a duly called meeting of the Members, provided that each Member is presented or mailed a copy of the proposed amendment twenty days prior to the meeting.

**First Baptist Church  
Of Auburn**

**Constitution**

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- b. **Term of Office:** The members of the Pulpit Committee shall continue to serve until a new Senior Pastor has been called, or is dismissed by the Board of Elders.
- c. **Duties:** The Pulpit Committee shall seek a suitable candidate for Senior Pastor. Upon the approval of a majority of the Pulpit Committee, the candidate shall be presented to the Board of Elders for their approval. Upon the four-fifths approval of the Board of Elders, a candidate shall be presented to the Members for their consideration and approval by a four-fifths ballot vote at a duly called meeting.
- d. All meetings of this Committee shall be conducted in a manner consistent with Article V, Section 4 of these By-Laws.

**ARTICLE X**

**COMMISSIONING, LICENSING AND ORDINATION**

**SECTION 1 - APPLICATION**

When a Member of this church is confident of the call of God to the Gospel Ministry, an application may be submitted to the Board of Elders for commissioning, licensing or ordination.

